AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1.　　(currently amended):　An information reproduction apparatus comprising:

a reading device which ~~for~~ reads ~~reading~~ image information recorded in an information storage medium;

a decoding device which ~~for~~ decodes ~~decoding~~ the image information read by the reading device;

a storage device which ~~for~~ holds ~~holding~~ the decoded image information decoded by the decoding device so that the decoded image information can be read therefrom and written therein repeatedly;

an output controlling device which ~~for~~ sequentially reads ~~reading~~ out and ~~outputting~~ outputs the decoded image information in order of precedence at the time of writing the decoded image information while writing the decoded image information in a predetermined region of the storage device;

a designating device which ~~for designating~~ designates a repetitive reproduction start position indicating a start position of repetitive reproduction;

a repetitive reproduction controlling device which ~~for controlling~~ controls a repetitive reproduction processing;

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a repetitive start instructing device which ~~for~~ instructs ~~instructing~~ the repetitive

reproduction controlling device to begin to perform the repetitive reproduction processing; and

a repetition reproduction range setting device which ~~for~~ sets ~~setting~~ a repetition

reproduction range that would include the decoded image information to be reproduced at one

repetition reproduction and instructs ~~instructing~~ the output controlling device to maintain the

decoded image information in the repetition reproduction range, when the repetitive reproduction

start position ~~start position of repetitive reproduction~~ is designated by the designating device,

wherein the repetitive reproduction controlling device instructs the output

controlling device to output the decoded image information in the repetition reproduction range

and to acquire the decoded image information subsequent to the repetition reproduction range,

when the repetitive reproduction controlling device is instructed to begin to perform the

repetitive reproduction processing by the repetitive reproduction start instructing device.

Claim 2.   (currently amended): The information reproduction apparatus according

to claim 1, wherein:

the repetition reproduction range setting device sets a range from a target position

on the storage device, from which the decoded image information is read at the time when the

start position is designated, as the repetition reproduction range, and instructs the output

controlling device to use an area except the repetition reproduction range for reading and writing

area of the decoded image information, when the repetitive reproduction start position is

designated, and

the repetitive reproduction controlling device instructs the output controlling

device to begin to read out the decoded image information from the target position on the storage

device to an end of the repetition reproduction range when the repetitive reproduction controlling

device is instructed to begin to perform the repetitive reproduction, and instructs the reading

device to read the decoded image information, the decoding device to decode the read image

information, and the output controlling device to write the decoded image information in the area

except the repetition reproduction range, when the output controlling device is instructed to

acquire the decoded image information subsequent to the repetition reproduction range.

Claim 3.   (currently amended): The information reproduction apparatus according

to claim 1, wherein the repetitive reproduction range setting device sets the size of the repetition

reproduction range so that both reading information corresponding to the decoded image

information subsequent to the repetition reproduction range in the reading device and decoding

the read image information in the decoding device can be completed while the decoded image

information in the repetition reproduction range is outputted.

Claim 4.   (currently amended): The information reproduction apparatus according

to claim 1, wherein:

the image information recorded on the information storage medium is video

compression information that includes first image information for intra-frame encoding and

second image information for performing forward and backward prediction; and

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the repetition reproduction range setting device instructs the output controlling

device to maintain both the decoded image information that corresponds to one processing unit

of the video compression information and the decoded image information that corresponds to the

second image information immediately before the first image information that is first appeared in

a processing unit subsequent to the one processing unit, as decoded image information in the

repetition reproduction range.

Claim 5.   (currently amended): An information reproduction method comprising

the processes of:

reading image information recorded in an information storage medium;

decoding the read image information;

holding decoded image information in a storage device so that the decoded image

information can be read therefrom and written therein repeatedly;

sequentially reading out and outputting the image information in order of

precedence at the time of writing the decoded image information while writing the decoded

image information in a predetermined region of the storage device;

designating a repetitive reproduction start position;

setting a repetition reproduction range that would include the decoded image

information to be reproduced at one repetition reproduction when the start position of repetitive

reproduction is designated;

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maintaining the decoded <u>image</u> information in the repetition reproduction range

when the start position of repetitive reproduction is designated;

providing an instruction to begin to perform repetitive reproduction;

outputting the decoded <u>image</u> information in the repetition reproduction range

when the instruction is provided; and

acquiring the decoded <u>image</u> information subsequent to the repetition

reproduction range when the instruction is provided.

Claim 6.   (currently amended): The information reproduction method according to

claim 5, wherein the method further comprising the process of using an area except the repetition

reproduction range for reading and writing area of the decoded <u>image</u> information when the

repetitive reproduction start position is designated, and

the process of setting the repetition reproduction range sets a range from a target

position on the storage device, from which the decoded <u>image</u> information is read at the time

when the start position is designated, as the repetition reproduction range, when the repetitive

reproduction start position is designated,

the process of outputting the decoded <u>image</u> information in the repetition

reproduction range begins to read out the decoded <u>image</u> information from the target position on

the storage device to an end of the repetition reproduction range, when the instruction is

provided,

the process of acquiring the decoded image information subsequent to the

repetition reproduction range includes the processes of: reading the image information; decoding

the read image information; and writing the decoded image information in the area except the

repetition reproduction range.

Claim 7.   (currently amended): The information reproduction method according to

claim 5, wherein the process of setting the repetition reproduction range sets the size of the

repetition reproduction range so that both reading image information corresponding to the

decoded image information subsequent to the repetition reproduction range and decoding the

read image information can be completed while the decoded image information in the repetition

reproduction range is outputted.

Claim 8.   (currently amended): The information reproduction method according to

claim 5, wherein

the image information recorded on the information storage medium is video

compression information that includes first image information for intra-frame encoding and

second image information for performing forward and backward prediction, and

the method further comprising the process of maintaining both the decoded image

information that corresponds to one processing unit of the video compression information and

the decoded image information that corresponds to the second image information immediately

before the first image information that is first appeared in a processing unit subsequent to the one

processing unit, as the decoded image information in the repetition reproduction range, when the repetition reproduction range is set.

Claim 9.   (new): The information reproduction apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the video compression information is information in accordance with an MPEG2 (Moving Picture Expert Group 2) system.

Claim 10.   (new): The information reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image information is image compression information.

Claim 11.   (new): The information reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the image information recorded in the information storage medium is video compression information that includes first image information for intra-frame encoding; and

the repetition reproduction range setting device instructs the output controlling device to maintain the decoded image information whose range is set in a range that includes up to a last data of one processing unit of the video compression information as decoded image information in the repetition reproduction range.

Claim 12.   (new): The information reproduction apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the video compression information is information in accordance with an MPEG2 (Moving Picture Expert Group 2) system.

Claim 13.   (new): The information reproduction method according to claim 8, wherein the video compression information is information in accordance with an MPEG2 (Moving Picture Expert Group 2) system.

Claim 14.   (new): The information reproduction method according to claim 5, wherein the image information is image compression information.

Claim 15.   (new): The information reproduction method according to claim 5, wherein:

the image information recorded in the information storage medium is video compression information that includes first image information for intra-frame encoding; and

the repetition reproduction range setting device instructs the output controlling device to maintain the decoded image information whose range is set in a range that includes up to a last data of one processing unit of the video compression information as decoded image information in the repetition reproduction range.

Claim 16.   (new): The information reproduction method according to claim 15,

wherein the video compression information is information in accordance with an MPEG2

(Moving Picture Expert Group 2) system.

Claim 17.   (new): An information reproduction apparatus comprising:

a reading circuit that reads image information recorded in an information storage

medium; and

a control circuit,

wherein said control circuit:

designates a repetitive reproduction start position indicating a start position of

repetitive reproduction for a decoded image information that is written in a predetermined region

of the storage device,

controls a repetitive reproduction processing,

performs the repetitive reproduction processing,

sets a repetition reproduction range that would include the decoded image

information to be reproduced at one repetition reproduction,

maintains the decoded image information in the repetition reproduction range,

when the repetitive reproduction start position is designated, and

outputs the decoded image information in the repetition reproduction range and

acquires the decoded image information subsequent to the repetition reproduction range, when

said control circuit begins to perform the repetitive reproduction processing.

Claim 18   (new): An information reproduction method comprising:

designating a repetitive reproduction start position for a decoded image information that is written in a predetermined region of a storage device;

setting a repetition reproduction range that would include the decoded image information to be reproduced at one repetition reproduction when the start position of repetitive reproduction is designated;

maintaining the decoded image information in the repetition reproduction range when the start position of repetitive reproduction is designated;

providing an instruction to begin to perform repetitive reproduction;

outputting the decoded image information in the repetition reproduction range when the instruction is provided; and

acquiring the decoded image information subsequent to the repetition reproduction range when the instruction is provided.